

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Claims 3-5 and 10-12 remain pending in this application. Claims 2, 9 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

**Priority**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

**35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 2, 9 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruckert et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,317 ) in view of Fukasawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,463,660). Without admitting to the propriety of these rejections, the claims have been amended in order to expedite the issuance of subject matter indicated as being allowable.

Appl. No. 09/616,314  
Amendment dated April 25, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2005

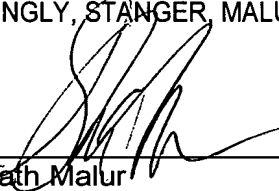
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**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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